

by any departure from principle, disgust the mass of our fellow citizens who have confided to us this interesting cause. (To Governor Hall. F. VIII., 15⁶.)

SELF-GOVERNMENT.—In the great work which has been effected in America, no individual has a right to take any great share to himself. Our people in a body are wise, because they are - under the unrestrained and unperverted operation of their own understandings. Those whom they have assigned to the direction of their affairs have stood with pretty even front. If any one of them was withdrawn, many others entirely equal, have "been ready to fill his place with as good abilities. A nation, composed of such materials, and free in all its members from distressing wants, furnishes hopeful implements for the interesting experiment of self-government; and we feel that we are acting under obligations not confined to the limits of our own society. It is impossible not to be sensible that we are acting for all mankind; that circumstances denied to others, but indulged to us, have imposed on us the duty of proving what is the degree of freedom and self-government in which a society may venture to have its individual members. (To Joseph Priestly, 1802. F. VIII., 158.)

SENATE.—I think the Senate has no* right to negative the grade. * * * The transaction of business with foreign nations is executive altogether. The Senate is not supposed by the Constitution to be acquainted with the concerns of the executive department. It was intended that these should be communicated to them; nor can they, therefore, be qualified to judge oi the necessity which calls for a mission to any particular place, or of the particular grade, more or less marked, which special and secret circumstances may call for. All this is left to the President; they are only to see that no unfit person be employed. * * * If the Constitution had meant to give the Senate a negative on the grade or destination, as well as in the person, it would have said so in direct terms. (From an opinion on the question whether the Senate has the right to negative the grade of persons appointed by the President to fill foreign missions, 1^90. F. V., 162.)